

CLAIMS

1. A method of managing cookies in a data processing system (1) comprising a user agent (100) requesting a resource associated with a cookie from a content provider (200), said method comprising the step of said user agent (100) transmitting, in response to reception of a privacy policy associated with said cookie, a cookie-policy receipt to said content provider (200), said cookie-policy receipt specifying whether a user associated with said user agent (100) accepts that said content provider (200) provides said cookie to user equipment (300) associated with said user agent (200).

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of including said cookie-policy receipt in a resource fetch message transmitted from said user agent (100) to said content provider (200).

3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising the steps of:

- said user agent (100) comparing said received privacy policy with user preference, said user preference specifying a cookie privacy policy accepted by said user; and

- said user agent (100) generating said cookie-policy receipt based on said comparison.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein, if said received privacy policy does not fulfill said user preference, said method comprising the steps of:

- said user agent (100) presenting said received privacy policy for said user on said user equipment (300); and

- said user agent (100) generating, in response to a user-input signal, said cookie-policy receipt.

5. The method according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising the steps of:

- said user agent (100) presenting said received privacy policy for said user on said user equipment (300); and

- said user agent (100) generating, in response to a user-input signal, said cookie-policy receipt.

6. The method according to any of the claims 1 to 5, further comprising the step of authenticating said cookie-policy receipt with an authentication key (135; 355) associated with said user agent (100).

7. The method according to any of the claims 1 to 6, wherein, if said cookie-policy receipt is specifying that said user does not accept that said content provider (200) provides said cookie to said user equipment (300), said method comprising the step of removing a stored cookie associated with said requested resource from a storage (330) in said user equipment (300).

8. The method according to any of the claims 1 to 6, wherein, if said cookie-policy receipt is specifying that said user does not accept that said content provider (200) provides said cookie to said user equipment (300), said method comprising the step of ignoring a cookie request command transmitted from said content provider (200) to said user agent (100).

9. A method of providing cookies in a data processing system (1) comprising a user agent (100) requesting a resource associated with a cookie from a content provider (200), said method comprising the steps of:

- transmitting a privacy policy associated with said cookie to said user agent (100); and

- said content provider (200) providing, in response to reception of a cookie-policy receipt from said user agent (100), said cookie to user equipment (300) associated with said user agent (100) if said cookie-policy receipt is specifying that a user associated with said user agent (100) accepts that said content provider (200) provides said cookie to said user equipment (300).

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein said cookie-policy receipt is received in a resource fetch message transmitted from said user agent (100).

11. The method according to claim 9 or 10, wherein, if said cookie-policy receipt is specifying that said user accepts that said content provider (200)

provides said cookie to said user equipment (300), said method comprising the step of providing said cookie-associated resource.

12. The method according to any of the claims 9 to 11, wherein said cookie-policy receipt is generated based on a comparison between said received privacy policy and user preference that specifies a cookie privacy policy accepted by said user.

13. A user agent (100) provided in a data processing system (1) for requesting a resource associated with a cookie from a content provider (200), said user agent (100) comprising means for transmitting (110), in response to reception of a privacy policy associated with said cookie, a cookie-policy receipt to said content provider (200), said cookie-policy receipt specifying whether a user associated with said user agent (100) accepts that said content provider (200) provides said cookie to user equipment (300) associated with said user agent (100).

14. The user agent according to claim 13, wherein said transmitting means (110) being adapted for including said cookie-policy receipt in a resource fetch message transmitted to said content provider (200).

15. The user agent according to claim 13 or 14, further comprising:

- means for comparing (160) said received privacy policy with user preference, said user preference specifying a cookie privacy policy accepted by said user; and

- means for generating (125), connected to said comparing means (160), said cookie-policy receipt based on said comparison.

16. The user agent according to claim 15, further comprising means for presenting (110) said received privacy policy for said user on said user equipment (300) if said privacy policy does not fulfill said user preference, said generating means (125) being adapted for generating said cookie-policy receipt in response to a user input signal.

17. The user agent according to claim 13 or 14, further comprising:

- means for presenting (110) said received privacy policy for said user on said user equipment (300); and
- means for generating (125) said cookie-policy receipt in response to a user input signal.

18. The user agent according to any of the claims claim 13 to 17, further comprising means for authenticating (130) said cookie-policy receipt with an authentication key (135; 355) associated with said user agent (100).

19. The user agent according to any of the claims 13 to 18, further comprising means for removing (140) a stored cookie associated with said requested resource from a storage (330) in said user equipment (300) if said cookie-policy receipt is specifying that said user does not accept that said content provider (200) provides said cookie to said user equipment (300).

20. A content provider (200) adapted for providing a requested resource associated with a cookie to a user agent (100) in a data processing system (1), said content provider (200) comprises:

- means for transmitting (210), in response to a resource request from said user agent (100), a privacy policy associated with said cookie to said user agent (100); and
- means for providing (230), in response to a cookie-policy receipt transmitted from said user agent (100), said cookie to user equipment (300) associated with said user agent (100), said cookie providing means (230) being adapted for providing said cookie if said cookie-policy receipt is specifying that a user associated with said user agent (100) accepts that said content provider (200) provides said cookie to said user equipment (300).

21. The content provider according to claim 20, wherein said cookie-policy receipt is received in a resource fetch message transmitted from said user agent (100).

22. The content provider according to claim 20 or 21, further comprising means for providing (240) said cookie-associated resource if said cookie-policy receipt is specifying that said user accepts that said content provider (200) provides said cookie to said user equipment (300).

23. The content provider according to any of the claims 20 to 22, wherein said cookie-policy receipt is generated based on a comparison between said received privacy policy and user preference that specifies a cookie privacy policy accepted by said user.

24. A system for managing cookies in a data processing system (1) comprising a user agent (100) requesting a resource associated with a cookie from a content provider (200), said system comprising:

- means for providing (240) a privacy policy associated with said cookie;
- means for transmitting (110) a cookie-policy receipt, said receipt transmitting means (110) being responsive to said privacy policy; and
- means for providing (230) said cookie in response to said cookie-policy receipt specifying that a user associated with said user agent (100) accepts that said content provider provides (200) said cookie to user equipment (300) associated with said user agent (100).
